



Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 4

JULY AND AUGUST 2008

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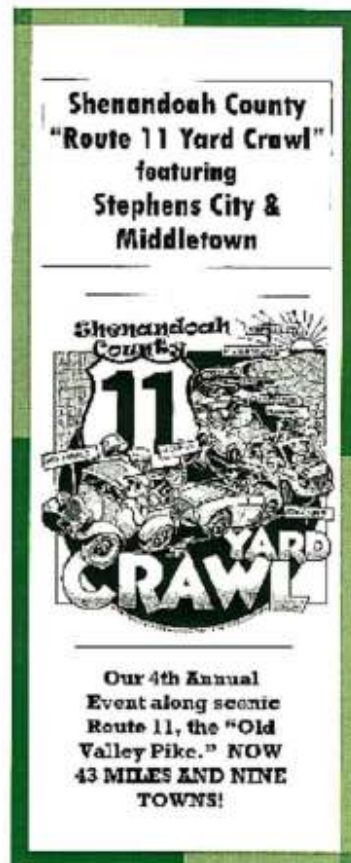
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Stephens City Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens, to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087 Fax: 869-6166 Police: 868-1012 Website: www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov



Refuse Collection Notice

Due to the change in the Town's refuse and recycling contract, **WEDNESDAY** will become the new collection day.

In case of holidays or inclement weather, Saturday will be the alternate day for curb side pick-up.

This change become effective on July 1, 2008. Therefore your first pick up day will be on Wednesday, July 2, 2008. Please continue to have your trash out to the curb by 7:00am on the morning of pick-up. If you have any questions, please contact the Town

Office. We are working very diligently with our new contractor to ensure a smooth transition.

Town Manager,
Michael Kehoe

In accordance with the Virginia Department of Health, the Town is required to print and provide the Annual Water Quality Report. Should you have any questions please contact me as soon as possible.

*Michael K. Kehoe
Town Manager*

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Town of Stephens City

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2007 is designed to provide you with valuable information about your drinking water quality. We are committed to providing you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water meets all state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

If you have questions about this report, want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water, or want to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact:

Mr. Michael Kehoe, Town Manager at 540-969-3067

You can obtain additional information by attending Town Council meetings held on 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month in the Town Council Chambers.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances (referred to as contaminants) in source water may come from septic systems, discharges from domestic or industrial wastewater treatment facilities, agriculture, and farming activities, urban storm water runoff, residential septic, and many other types of activities. Water from surface sources is treated to make it drinkable while groundwater may or may not have any treatment.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microorganismal contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

SOURCES AND TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water is surface water purchased from the Frederick County Sanitation Authority (FCSA) and obtained from the quarries located on the west side of Stephens City. Water is distributed in the Town from a water tower connected to the FCSA system through various sized distribution pipes. Storage for the Town is provided by the FCSA.

All water supplied to the Town undergoes treatment. This treatment is accomplished at the James H. Hirth water treatment plant prior to entering the distribution system water treatment and consists of chemical addition, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration to remove turbidity, chlorination to disinfect the water and chlorination

To aid in reporting, look below.

SOURCE WATER ASSIGNMENT

A source water assignment for the Frederick County Service Authority was completed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) on 10 April 2002. This assignment determined that the Authority's Stephens City water source may be susceptible to contamination, because it is surface water exposed to a wide array of contaminants at varying concentrations. Changing hydrologic, hydrologic, and atmospheric conditions promote migration of contaminants from land use activities of concern within the watershed area. More specific information may be obtained by the Frederick County Sanitation Authority at 540-464-1000.

QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water is routinely monitored according to Federal and State Regulations for a variety of contaminants. The table on this next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007.

Most of the results in this table are from testing done in 2007. However, this table allows us to include for more comprehensive test data year per year because the concentrations of those contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

DEFINITIONS

In the table and elsewhere in this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

Non-detects (ND): lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L): one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter: one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$1,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm) or Micrograms per liter (micrograms/L): one part per million corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Pounds per liter (pp/L): pounds per liter is a measure of the salt content of water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level: the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Turbidity Treatment (TT): a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level, or MCL: the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set in the MCLGs are feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or MCLG: the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Permitted and approved: state or EPA permission not to meet an MCL, or a treatment technology under certain

Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing ending **June 24, 2008** will be due and payable on **August 4, 2008**.

After **August 4, 2008** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **August 11, 2008** service may be discontinued for delinquency. A reconnect fee of **\$25** plus the full amount of the bill

must be paid before service can be re-stored.

Just a reminder that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments and payments can now be made online at the Town's website. Only Water/Sewer, Personal & Real Estate Bills can be paid

using a Visa or MasterCard! If you pay a water bill after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 reconnect fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

Please do not put cash in the drop box!

We realize that this might be a little difficult to read, but we wanted to make sure everyone had a copy of the Annual Water Quality Report. If you would like a more readable copy, please visit our website in the Town Services Section under "Utilities" and click on the link to view the report. If you do not have access to the internet, please feel free to stop by the Town Office and pick up a hard copy. Please let me know if you should have any other questions.

Sincerely,
Michael K. Kehoe
Town Manager

Radionuclide Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	Level Found	Unit	Value	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha Emitters James D. Jr. WTP James T. Anderson WTP	15	0.8 0.8	pCi/L	NO NO	10/03 04/07	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta Emitters James D. Jr. WTP James T. Anderson WTP	50	1.6 2.7	pCi/L	NO NO	10/03 04/07	Decay of natural or man-made deposits
Radon James D. Jr. WTP James T. Anderson WTP	5	0.3 0.8	pCi/L	NO NO	10/03 04/07	Presence of natural deposits

Lead and Copper (Most Recent Monitoring Period - Stephens City September 2005/06 - June 2006)

Location	MCL	Level Found	Unit	AL	AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (Pb) Stephens City, Town of Frederick County Sanitation Authority	15	7	ppb	NO	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper Stephens City, Town of Frederick County Sanitation Authority	1.3	0.05	ug/L	NO	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

(1) Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could also suffer from kidney problems or high blood pressure.

We currently monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. The table lists only those contaminants that had some level of detection. Many other contaminants have been analyzed but were not present or were below the detection limits of the 30 equipment.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In developing the standards EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. EPA generally sets MCL's at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

VIOLATION INFORMATION

We were in full compliance with all water quality monitoring and reporting requirements and no violations occurred during calendar year 2007.

The waterworks owners prepared this Drinking Water Quality Report with the assistance and approval of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Please call if you have questions.

Signature:

Michael Kehoe

Date:

6/19/08

From the Town Manager's Desk...

Shop until you drop at the 4th Annual "Route 11 Yard Crawl" in the Shenandoah Valley on Saturday, August 9th from 7AM to 3PM. Plan to spend the day meandering through 43 miles of the Valley, featuring antiques, yard sales, and local businesses from New Market to Stephens City along the "Old Valley Pike" Route 11. Additional information can be found by visiting the Shenandoah County Tourism website at www.shenandoahtravel.org.

Also in commemoration of Stephen City's 250th Anniversary of the Town's founding, the Town is encouraging businesses along Main Street to participate by creating window displays. Attractive window displays will encourage pedestrian traffic along Main Street and could serve as good advertisement for your business. We are asking businesses leave displays in place throughout the summer until the Founder's Day Celebration of October 12th, 2008. Businesses that do not have available window space should consider outside displays or yard displays. Displays do not necessarily have to have a heritage theme but are encourage to be Stephens City related. Awards will be presented for the most creative and attractive displays at the Founder's Day Celebration.

Town Manager, Mike Kehoe

**"...step
outside, take
your shoes off
and feel the
grass between
your toes—
have a look up
down and all
around."**

The Planner's Corner

It's Not Easy Being Green...

It's swarming around us everywhere we look on Television, in the newspaper, even your local newsletter; the latest trend is to Go Green! The Town is in the course of trying to Go Green in a friendly jurisdictional challenge across the state. Between a sluggish economy and the rising cost of fuel, the feeling of going green is more apt to look like this guy!



As many of us are learning it's not easy "being" green. We have become too accustomed to the lifestyles we live in to give up the freedom of driving our cars, minivans, SUV's anywhere we choose when less than century ago our most common form of travel was still by foot.

In the 80s the challenge became to recycle and the trend continued through 90s and in many ways we have become complacent in our recycling if it's not easily accessible.

For many of us, including myself, it has become a problem where the mind is willing, but the action is in a holding pattern and unsure where to start. In doing research for this article, I found this to be a good starting place,

"Step outside, take your shoes off and feel the grass between your toes - have a look up down and all around. Aside from being a welcome break from the everyday grind, it will give you a chance to appreciate just how wonderful our world really is - the taste of fresh air, the comforting glow of sunshine, the smell of warm earthy soil, rainbow colours displayed by blooming flowers, bees buzzing, children playing. Who wouldn't want to make an effort to look after all these

things? This is the spirit in which we like to explore and play with solutions - **have fun and enjoy being creative!**"

You can get some great ideas for going "green" from "goinggreen.com" and other similar resources on the internet and include everyone into the process. I believe it was Kermit the Frog who coined "It's not easy being green", but then again I don't know anyone who doesn't like Kermit the Frog, so give let's give it a try...



Till the next newsletter, this is the Planner's Corner.

Brian Henshaw
Town Planner

Town Calendar of Events

JULY

July	1	Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm
July	3	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Foundation at 7:30pm
July	4	Happy 4th of July-- Town Office is Closed
July	9	250th Meeting at 7:00pm
July	14	Personnel at 5:00pm
July	15	HPC meeting at 7:30p.m.
July	16	Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:30p.m.
July	17	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 9:00 a.m. Public Works Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
July	23	Finance at 5:00p.m.
July	24	Public Safety at 7:30pm
July	29	Planning Commission at 7:30p.m.



AUGUST

August 4	Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty
August 5	Town Council
	Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills
August 7	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.
August 11	Personnel Meeting at 5:00 pm
	Water/ Sewer Shut off Date
August 13	250th Anniversary Meeting at 7:00pm
August 19	HPC meeting at 7:30p.m.
August 20	Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:30pm
August 21	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 9:00 a.m. Public Works Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
August 26	Planning Commission at 7:30p.m.
August 27	Finance at 5:00p.m.
August 28	Public Safety Meeting at 7:30p.m.



The 250th Spotlight!

July 19th-



July 23rd - Mike Barber who is the Virginia State Archaeologist will give a presentation on 15,000 years of Virginia prehistory including the occupation of the Shenandoah Valley prior to its settlement in the 1700s at Stephens City United Methodist Church at 7:00pm.

August 9th -

August 27th - Greg Adamson is a well known historian of the French and Indian War and will give a talk about the impact on the frontier during the conflict, including the Town of Stephens City and surrounding forts. The talk will be given at the Stephens City United Methodist Church at 7:30pm

